



# Hands Update

january 2001

## Heath Hands turn out to mark first birthday

**H**eath Hands and their guests turned out 65 strong at Kenwood in October for the organisation's first annual general meeting and birthday party.

Starting with a business session in the mansion's elegant lecture room, members approved the revised constitution (as required by the Charity Commission) and heard that Heath Hands had grown from a tiny band of 23 to 115 members and is still growing. The *Needsaname* (newsletter naming) competition winner Liz Jack received her prize of a plant, along with all the other entrants; those who had given more than 75 hours service were recognised, and the Corporation's Conservation Unit team over the past year – Danny Murphy, Mark Henderson and Adrian Brooker – received the Heath Hands Green Sticky Fingers Award, specially adapted plastic spoons for sugaring coffee in open spaces.

Among the guests were Tom Jackson, deputy chairman of the Corporation of London's Hampstead Heath Management Committee; Jo and




*Katy Yates' very original birthday cake for Heath Hands*



*Corporation Conservation Unit member Mark Henderson with Heath Hands, from left, Vicky Coral, Katy Yates, Lesley Lander, Liz Jack and Margherita Di Marino.*

Tony Diamond of the Christchurch Area Neighbourhood Association, John Hunt of the South End Green Association, Helen Marcus, chair of the Camden Amenity Forum, English Heritage staff at Kenwood, and Highgate School staff members Charlotte Jones and Nicholas Whiting.

Officers Bobby de Joia, chair; Dave Bedford, vice-chair; Peter Tausig, treasurer, and secretary Annabel Wilson teamed up to blow out the single candle on Heath Hands'

first birthday cake, a multi-layer confection created by volunteer Katy Yates. 



*Meeters and greeters at the agm, from left, are Leonor Troni, Ruth Vaughan and Carol Frankel.*

## Can you follow Caroline?

**H**ands Update needs a new designer to pick up where Caroline Holmqvist leaves off. Caroline, roundly applauded at the agm for her work, has designed all four of the newsletters produced over the past year, but must leave us because of pressure of work. Do you know a designer who would like to contribute their talent to Heath Hands in this way? The newsletter goes to all members, the Corporation of London, other organisations and all libraries in Camden. Ring Bobby on 020 7794 6772 if you have any thoughts on who might follow Caroline.



*Caroline Holmqvist hard at work.*

## Heath Hands check out Ashtead

**By John Stephenson**

Two Heath Hands members, also members of the Heath and Hampstead Society's Heath sub-committee, visited Ashtead Common in the autumn as guests of the Corporation of London which manages both the Heath and the common.

Most of the 500-acre common is a wood pasture, containing more than 1,000 ancient oaks and much dead wood. The common supports more than 1,000 types of

beetles and an exceptionally rare fungus. It is a National Nature Reserve. In contrast to the Heath, usage is light. In a four-hour visit, I saw as many users as wild deer – one each.

The Ashtead volunteers are managed by the Corporation staff who provide the tools and lead parties of 6 to 15 members who work Thursdays and some Sundays. All told, Ashtead has about 25 volunteers who work on the common and 25 voluntary wardens.